

## **ELIGIBILITY**

The Tests of General Educational Development are developed by the American Council on Education to enable persons who have not graduated from high school to demonstrate the attainment of developed abilities normally acquired through completion of a high school program of study.

The Center for Adult Learning and Education Credentials of the American Council on Education is the policy making and advisory body for the GED Testing Service. The Office of Adult Education and GED Jurisdictional Administration (within Idaho's State Department of Education) is directly responsible for supervision of the GED Testing Centers operating within the state. By authority and condition of annual contract, GEDTS relies upon the State GED Administrator to ensure that testing centers conform to all policies, procedures, and requirements of GEDTS and the Commission.

The GED Tests are designed and validated only for use in programs to enable people who did not graduate from high school to earn a certificate demonstrating that their skills are at a level comparable with that of contemporary graduating high school seniors. In every policy decision, the Commission carefully considers the probable impact on high school attendance. The Commission does not want the availability of the GED Tests to become an incentive for students of high school age to drop out of traditional, conventional high school programs, nor does it want its policies to conflict with state, provincial, or territorial compulsory attendance laws. Either would conflict with the second-opportunity orientation of the GED Tests by allowing this test to become a first opportunity for obtaining a high school credential. The GED Tests are primarily intended for persons who for any number of reasons have missed their first opportunity to complete a high school program of instruction.

The Commission on Adult Learning and Education Credentials eligibility policies for GED testing are:

1. Residence: States, territories, and provinces shall administer the GED Tests to any otherwise qualified person who resides in that jurisdiction. No minimum period of residence shall be required for taking the tests.
2. Educational Limitations: Only persons who have not graduated from an accredited high school or received a high school equivalency diploma are eligible to take the GED Tests.
3. Age Limitations: The GED Tests may not be administered to persons less than 16 years of age.

GED Testing Center Chief Examiners and Alternate Examiners must obtain written confirmation of eligibility from all candidates. Such written confirmation must include the candidate's signature and must be retained for use in verifying that the candidate is

eligible and is the person he or she claims to be. Because passing the GED Tests leads to an official credential, it is important that the Chief and/or Alternate Examiners be completely satisfied that each person who takes the tests has supplied adequate evidence of identity and eligibility.

- Candidate's identity and eligibility must be verified during the registration and again before admission to each testing session.
- Identity and age must be verified using photographic identification. Drivers' licenses, passports, military, or other forms of government (national or foreign) identification that show name, address, date of birth, signature, and photograph are all acceptable forms of identification.
- If questions arise with respect to high school enrollment and the graduation/high school equivalency status, Chief and Alternate Examiners reserve the right to require appropriate documentation from the last school the candidate attended.